THE

ADVANTAGE

OF A

GOOD RESOLUTION.



BOSTON,

BOWLES AND DEARBOR 72 WASHINGTON STREET.

Isaac R. Butts & Co. Printers.

1827.

CHILDREN'S BOOK
COLLECTION

LIBRARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES

THE

ADVANTAGE

OF A

GOOD RESOLUTION.



Page 14.

BOSTON,

BOWLES AND DEARBORN, 72 WASHINGTON STREET.

Isaac R. Butts & Co. Printers.

1827.

gift of Mrs. L. M. Kneeland
9 Oct. 1924.

DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, *to wit:*
District Clerk's Office.

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the fifth day of March, A. D. 1827, in the fifty-first year of the Independence of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *Bowles & Dearborn* of the said District, have deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof they claim as Proprietors, in the words following, *to wit:* "THE ADVANTAGE OF A GOOD RESOLUTION."

In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, entitled "An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned;" and also to an act entitled, "An act supplementary to an act, entitled an act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned; and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving and etching, historical, and other prints."

JNO. W. DAVIS, } *Clerk of the District of Massachusetts.*

THE ADVANTAGE OF A GOOD RESOLUTION.

Sarah and George Mansfield were the children of a poor man, residing in the town of ———; they loved each other very much, and were generally well behaved.

Mr. Mansfield was a kind father, and gave his children enough to eat and to drink; and he let them run about wherever they pleased; yet he took no care of their minds, and did not teach them to read or to write, so these poor children were not so fortunate as most of the little boys and girls that I know; and what is worse than all, they had no dear mother to lead them in the

right way, and to make them good; so that they did not always say what was true, nor did they always spend their time as they ought, for they often passed the day in idleness, or in running about the streets, while their father, who was a carpenter, was at work in his shop. So this poor little boy and girl were growing up very ignorant, and would, perhaps, have been so all their lives; but God, who loves children, and is a father to those who have no earthly parents, had watched over them all the time, and had seen them when they were good and when they were naughty. God took care of these poor neglected little children; and you will soon see what he did for them.

There lived in the same town, a rich gentleman, who was very benevolent and kind to the poor; he had a wife and one son, his only child, who was about fourteen or fifteen years of age.

One day, as this boy was walking home from school, he saw little George Mansfield playing marbles upon the steps of his father's door; so he told George to stop his game, and let him pass; now little George had never been taught that it was good and right to give up to those who were older than himself; so he did not mind Henry Payson, (that was the great boy's name,) but kept on his game. Now Henry was a very passionate boy, and when he found that George did not go away, he struck him on the head with the stick which he held in his hand; he did not mean to hurt him, but when a person is in a passion, he does not know what he does.

When Henry saw George fall on the ground, and when he saw his eyes shut he thought he had killed him, and he felt very much frightened, and took him up in his arms and carried him into

the house. Sarah Mansfield who had been standing by seeing her brother play marbles, screamed and cried very loud when he fell, and when she saw Henry take him away, she ran after him, and before she knew what she was about, she found herself in a handsome parlour, and saw her brother lying on a sofa, and a lady and gentleman standing near him; but they did not bid her go away, as some proud, bad persons would have done, but they took hold of her hand, and spoke very kindly to her, and told her not to cry any more, for her brother was better, and would soon be quite well again; and presently little George opened his eyes, and stood up, and stared about him, not knowing where he was. Then the lady said "you have been hurt, my dear, do you feel better? George said he did feel better, but the gentleman saw how surprised he was to see himself with his

sister in a strange place, so he said, "My son struck you, but he did not mean to hurt you, my dear, and he is very much grieved about it; you were stunned by the blow; and he brought you into my house."

Then George remembered all about it, and he made a very awkward bow, and said he would go home; but Mr. Payson said he must wait till the chaise was ready, as he felt afraid to have him walk so soon. Then George sat down again as the lady told him, and by and by a servant brought in some cake, and wine, and water; she told him he had better take a little, as he had been faint.

While they waited there, Mr. Payson asked their names, and where they lived, and what their father did, and they answered much better than he expected they would. But when this good man found that they did not know how to read, or write, he pitied them

very much, and he thought that God had thrown them in his way so that he should do them good, and make them better and happier.

When George and Sarah had been sent home in the chaise, Mr. Payson did not forget them, but he thought about what would be most useful to them; and at last he determined, if their father would consent, to put them in a boarding school, where they would be under his own care, and he could teach them to be good.

So the next day he went to their house, and asked their father if he would allow his children to be placed at the grammar school, of which he was one of the trustees. Now Mr. Mansfield though he did not take any pains with his children himself, was very glad to have them kept out of mischief, as he called it, and thanked Mr. Payson very heartily for his kind-

ness, and said he should have put them to school himself if he could afford it.

Mr. Payson had soon the pleasure of seeing these poor children learning how to love and serve God, and to obey their parents and teachers; they were taught how to read and spell, and all that is proper, for such children to know.

No person would have thought when George fell down much hurt, that the accident would have been the means of making him in the end, good and happy; but so it was; and God in his mercy, allowed Henry's blow to stun George for the moment, that Mr. Payson might pity and take care of him and his sister. The ways of Providence are always good ways, though men do not see them so at first.

George Mansfield was a good tempered boy, but he had a great many faults, and he did not profit so well by Mr.

Payson's kindness as Sarah, who became very amiable and industrious, and was much beloved by her teachers and schoolmates; he was very thoughtless, and *proud* besides, which for a poor boy, above all, is very silly, and though he did nothing from a bad heart, yet he often caused his good friend, Mr. Payson, much trouble.

There lived at a short distance from the grammar school, a poor widow woman; she owned however a small house with a little peice of ground attached to it, which she valued very highly; there was on it a plum tree, which in its season was generally covered with fine large purple horse plums; these the good widow never tasted herself, but carried them all to market, and the money she gained by them was considerable. Now some of the boys at the grammar school, used often to trouble the poor woman by threatening to

rob her plum tree, but they really seldom dared to do so, as whoever did it was generally found out and severely punished by the master.

About a year after George had begun to go to school, a boy came there but little older than himself, who had been brought up in very bad habits, and who had besides a cruel disposition; this boy at first used to laugh at poor George, because he did not know as much and dress as well as the rest did, and he tried to make him ashamed, and to make the other boys hate him. Now George was very much afraid of ridicule; he did not remember that God, who sees the hearts of all his children, loves those of them who do good in his sight, the poor as well as the rich; but he used to please this bad boy, by doing every thing he wished him to do, and agreeing with him in all he said.

When Hammond, (this was the bad

boy's name,) found that he could make George do any thing he pleased, he often asked him to act as George had now learnt was very wrong; at first George would refuse, but when Hammond began to ridicule him, and call him coward, then he would do any thing the naughty boy wished, because his pride could not bear to be laughed at.

One day Hammond took George aside, and told him that the widow's plum tree was full of large ripe plums, and that if he was not a fool he might have some of them; and when he saw that George listened to what he said, he told him that if he was willing they would go at night and take some of them. Now George thought within himself that this plan was a very wicked one, but he did not dare to tell Hammond so, and he only said, "We shall be found out, and then we shall

be whipped." "Very well," said Hammond, in a contemptuous tone, "if you are such a coward, I will ask Jack Benson to go, and I will tell him and all the boys what a fool you are."

He was then going away, but George stopped him, and said, "I will go with you;" but it was in a feeble tone of voice, for George knew that he was doing wrong, and he felt ashamed of himself; but he had not courage to refuse, and after settling the time with Hammond, went away.

Now, George showed himself much more of a coward by acting against his duty, because he was afraid of being laughed at; and rather than bear a little ridicule, which *really* brave boys do not mind, he consented to offend God, and grieve his kind benefactor.

When evening came, Hammond and George stole softly out of the house,

and when they got to the widow's garden, Hammond climbed the wall, while George remained outside to see that no one was near; but he thought when his turn came to get some plums, he would make some excuse and hurry home; but when Hammond had got some himself, he did not care whether his companion had any or not, so he said that he was not going to wait any longer, and George went away quite light hearted, and tried to think that he had not done any thing wrong, because he had not himself taken any of the fruit; but it is almost as wicked to help another to do wrong, as to do so ourselves.

Now Hammond did not offer George any of the plums he had taken, as he only wanted George to go with him, so that if he was found out, he should not be punished alone, for the wicked always want others to be as wicked and

miserable as themselves. Now George did not wish for the plums, but he could not help thinking within himself that Hammond was a very selfish boy, and he felt quite surprised, for George did not know that bad people are always selfish, and he began to wish that he had never had any thing to do with Hammond; and as his companion walked softly along, he fell into deep thought, and studying how he should break off all acquaintance with him, he did not perceive that after a little while Hammond had left him alone, till seeing a shadow in his path, he looked up suddenly, and perceived by the light of the moon, which shone full upon him, that his good friend Mr. Payson was coming towards him.

Then George felt ashamed, and for the first time feared to look at Mr. Payson, who said, "What, George, are you out at such an hour? It is eleven

o'clock, and such little boys as you ought to be fast asleep by this time."

Now George had long since found how delightful and good a thing it is to tell the truth; besides, as he had not taken any of the plums himself, he thought that Mr. Payson would not be very angry with him; so hesitating and stuttering, he at last said, "I have been with Hammond to get some plums, sir." "Some plums! and at this time of night! I am afraid you have been taking what did not belong to you."

Then George saw that Mr. Payson looked very much grieved, and displeased, and he would have given the world if he had not seen him on such a disgraceful errand; for he loved his benefactor dearly, although he did often what was not right; and he now began to feel more than he had ever done before, how wicked and ungrateful he had been to this kind friend, in show-

ing himself undeserving of all his goodness; and he thought too, how grieved his dear sister would be, were she to know of his conduct; and all for what? because he was too proud to own himself poor and ignorant; so he resolved to tell Mr. Payson all his feelings, and all his thoughts, and to go to him as his best earthly friend; for his father, as I have before said, paid no attention to the minds and morals of his children.

While these thoughts were passing through George's mind, he had been going with Mr. Payson, nearer and nearer towards his school, and when they had nearly reached it, his benefacter, who appeared also to have been thinking, said, "Now, I suppose, you are afraid to go boldly up to the door and knock, but intend to get into the window, like a thief; did you not go out by the window?"

"Yes sir, but I am determined to be afraid no longer of any thing, but doing wrong and losing your favor;" said George, in a bold resolute tone of voice, "that is, I am determined to be proud no more, and then I shall not be a coward."

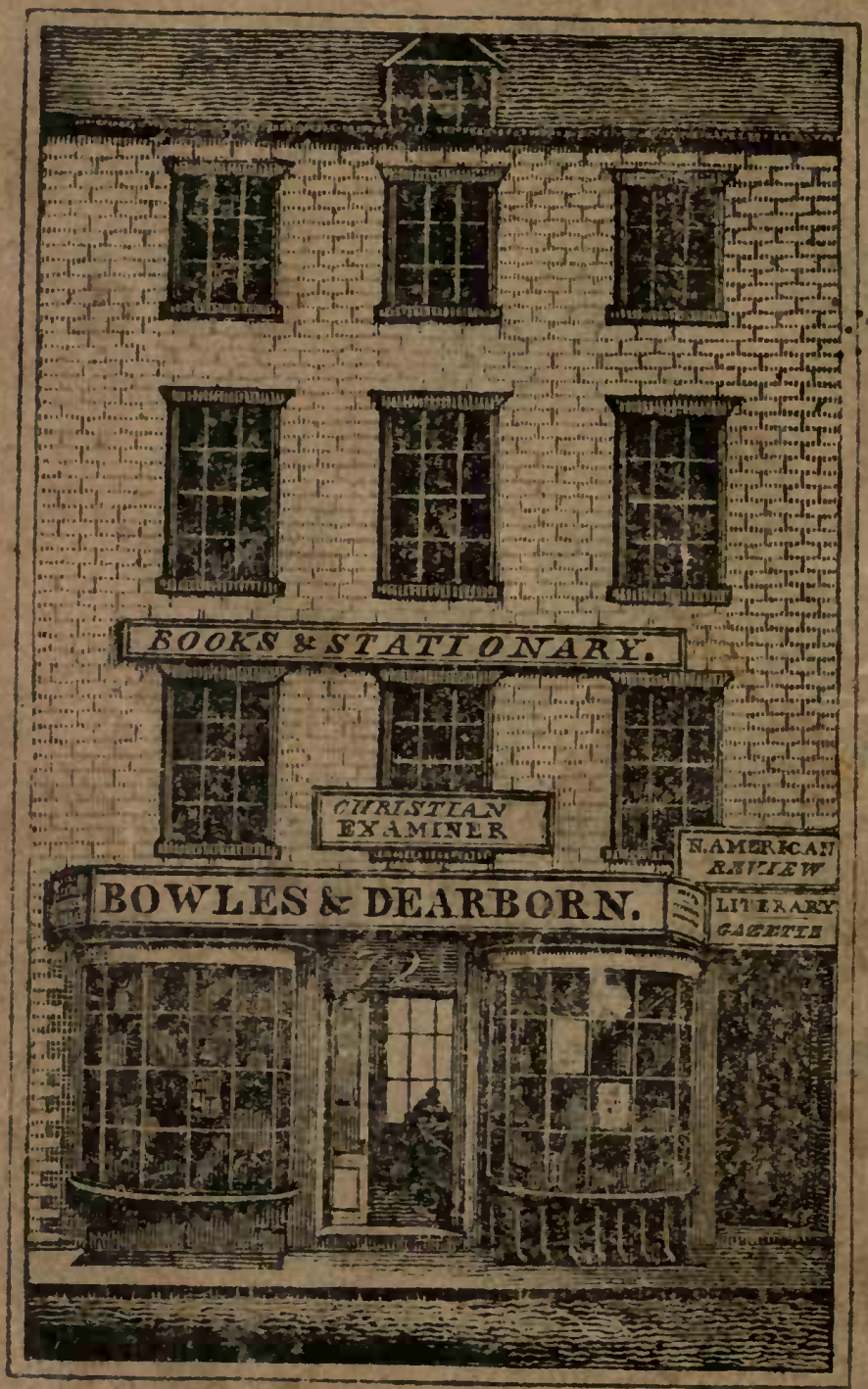
Mr. Payson saw how George trembled, even while he made this good resolution, for fear cannot be conquered all at once; but a determination to do so, is the first and most important step, and as George marched up to the knocker and touched it, he stopped his arm. "No," said he, "you will only rouse the scholars; you had better go in, as you came out to night, and tomorrow I wish to have a little talk with you; I love and approve you for your good resolutions, be assured." George bid Mr. Payson good night with a happier heart, and when he stepped into the window of his room, he felt like a new

person, so much power has a good resolution over the mind; and if all little boys knew how joyful George was that night, and how soundly he slept, they would all make a determination to be good, and resolve to keep it.

The next day George went to the house of Mr. Payson, and that good man took him into his study, and there George told him all his former fears, and all his resolutions and hopes. "Upon the strength of these resolutions, my dear boy," replied Mr. Payson, "depends much of your present and future happiness; of your favor in the sight of your Heavenly Father and with me; I was going to say a great deal more to you, but I will not do it now; I will see what a week will bring forth. I shall take care that the poor widow is repaid for her loss, and you need say nothing about it; a flogging will not make you any better, if you are deter-

mined to do right; and I should be sorry that Sarah should see her brother punished for theft.

George saw the smile on the lips of his fond benefactor; and as he took the way towards school, he prayed in his heart, that God would assist him in keeping the resolutions which he then made, and above all things, to keep him from pride; his prayer was heard, for God loves children who pray to him, and assists them, and though Hammond only a day or two after tempted him to sin, yet, strong in his resolution, he resisted his attacks; and what surprised the bad boy more than any thing, ridicule no longer affected him. George soon found too, that when he no longer shewed a *fear* of being laughed at, he was *laughed at* no longer; and this first step assisted him afterwards in other good resolutions; and George is now beloved and respected by every one who knows him.


BOOKS & STATIONARY.
CHRISTIAN EXAMINER
N. AMERICAN REVIEW
BOWLES & DEARBORN.
LITERARY GAZETTE